

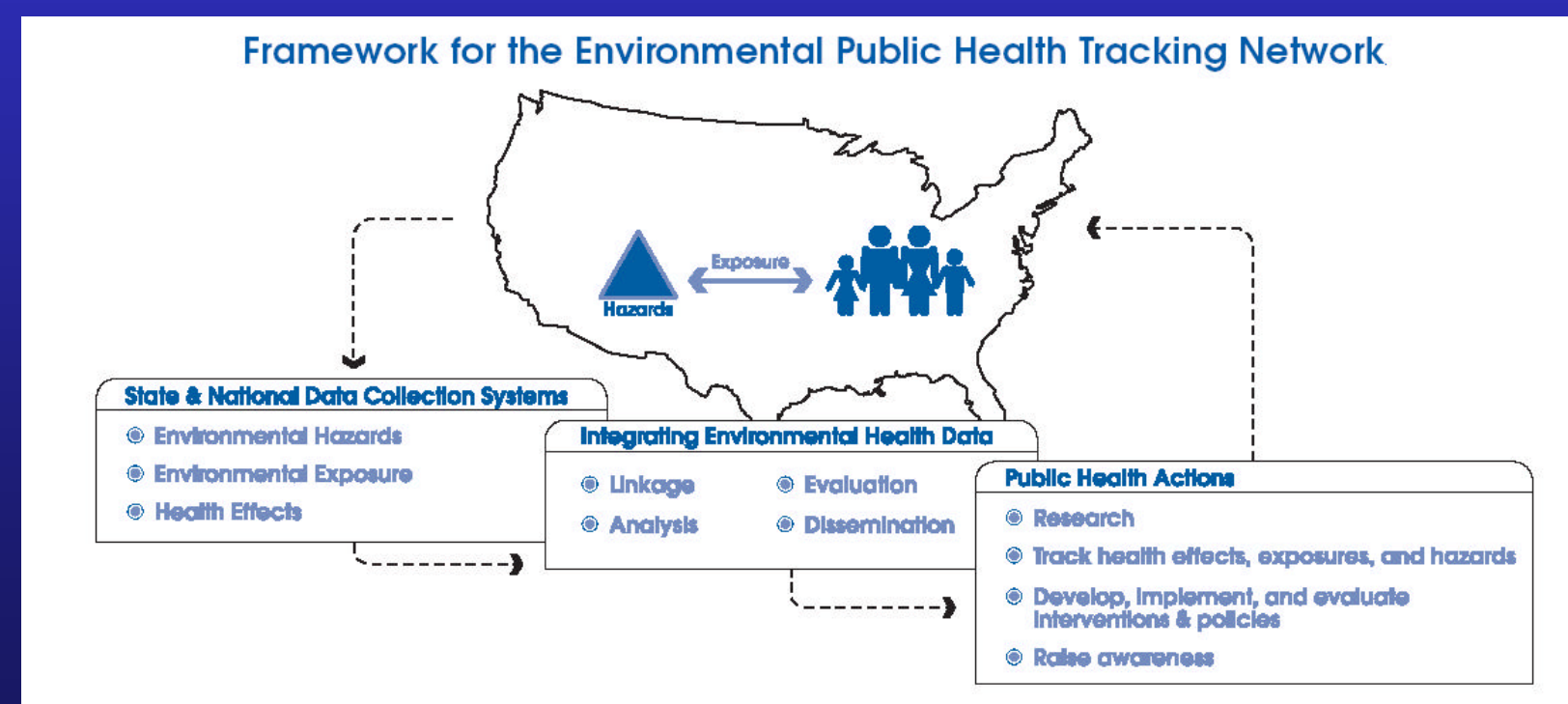
Environmental Public Health Tracking in Maine

Year-2 Update – March 2003

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Bureau of Health / Department of Human Services



Environmental Public Health Tracking

Maine's Cooperative Agreement with CDC

What we are suppose to do in 3-years!

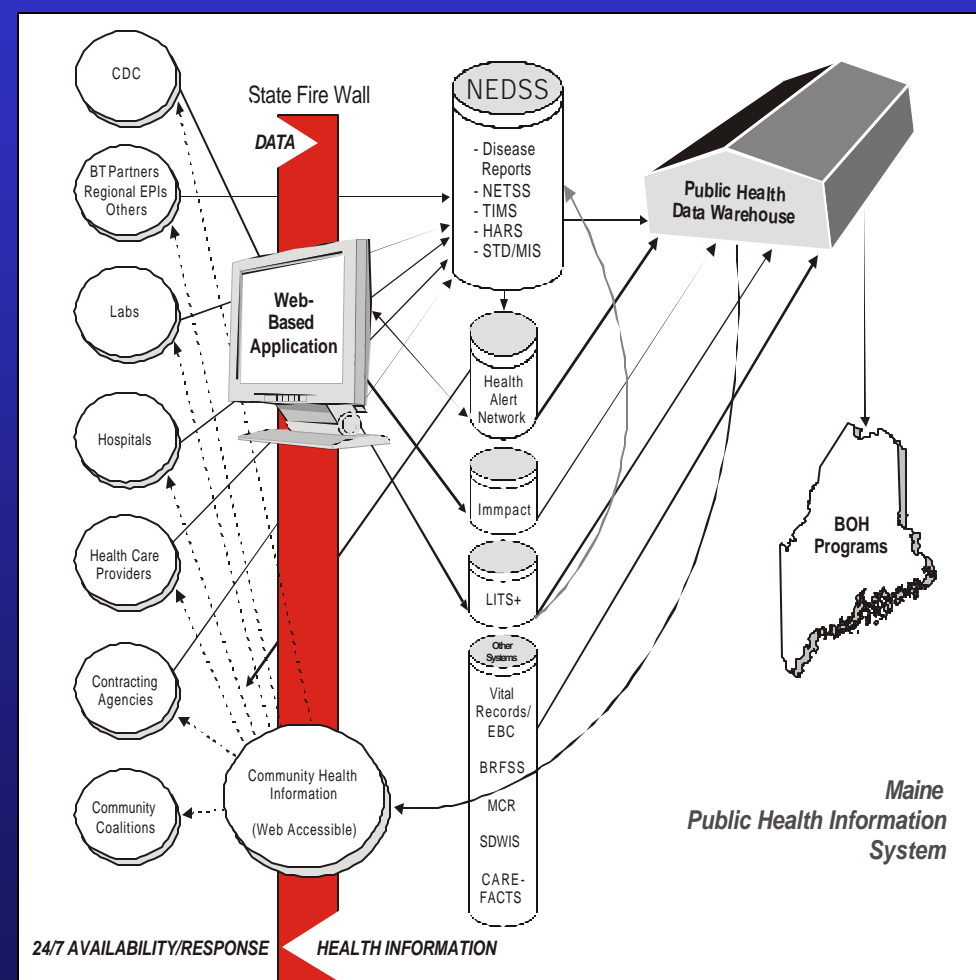
1. “Develop plans and components of a standards based, coordinated, and integrated environmental public health tracking (surveillance) system at the state and national levels that allows linkage and reporting of health effects data and human exposure data and environmental hazard data.”
2. “Increase environmental public health capacity at the local, state and national level.”

Required Activities Under EPHT Grant

**Integrated Public Health
Information System
(IPHIS)**

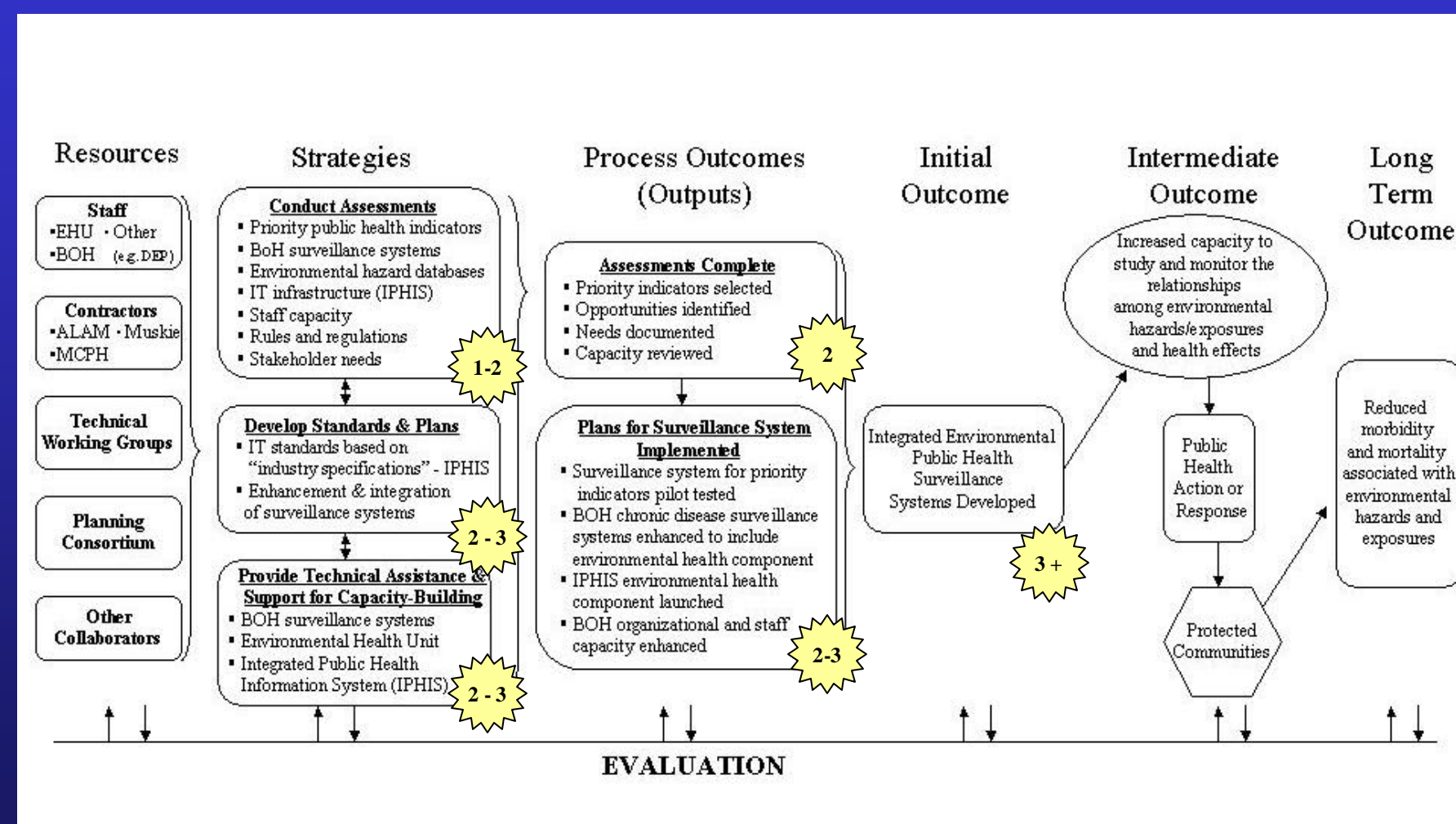
**Environmental Public
Health Tracking**

Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS)



- IPHIS largely being developed with BT related funds
- Base NEDSS/HAN system to be operational in 2005
- EPHT system will exist within IPHIS
- PAMS for Childhood & Adult lead under development

Revised Conceptual Model for Workplan



Environmental Public Health Tracking

March 2004 Update

Year-01 Activities

- ✓ Inventory and evaluate databases
- ✓ Assess feasibility of a Environmental Public Health Indicators
- ☐ Build Capacity – personnel and infrastructure
- ✓ Enhance existing hazard & exposure data systems
- ✓ Establish a Planning Consortium

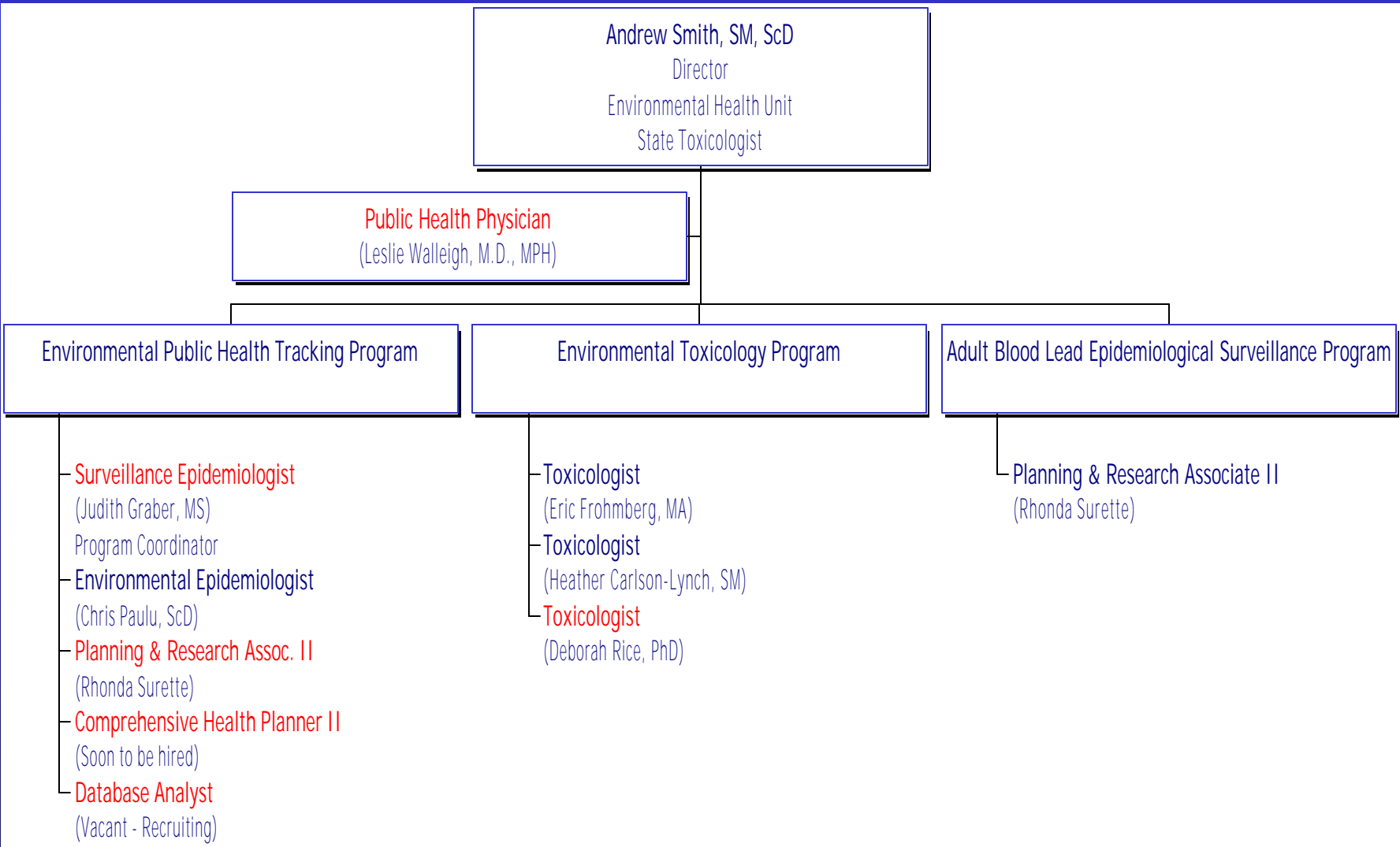
Environmental Public Health Tracking

March 2004 Update

Year 02 Major Activities

- ✓ Personnel Capacity Building – hiring new staff, set-up new office for EHU
- ✓ Identify Priority Environmental Public Health Indicators for feasibility analyses
- ☐ Enhance priority data systems
- ☐ IT Capacity Building – Integrate the needs of a EPHT Program into the IPHIS development plan
- ☐ Inventory & evaluate environmental hazard databases

Progress on Capacity Building - Personnel



Attributes of an Ideal Environmental Public Health Indicator

According to CDC's EPHI Project

- Measurable
- Trackable over time
- Based on demonstrated links between environment and health
- Useful and understood by diverse populations
- Informative to the public and to responsible agencies
- Tied to public health objectives
- Action-oriented
- Incorporated in clear-case definitions

Attributes of an Ideal Environmental Public Health Indicator

Feedback from Planning Consortium – Nov. 04 meeting

Highest Priority should be give to:

- Those indicators where there is existing data
- Those indicators associated with more common events
- Those indicators that have relevancy to interventions
- Those indicators of concern to Maine people
- Those indicators that can “test” the robustness of the system (e.g., where linkage between environment and health is clear).
- Those indicators associated with health effects of short latency

Identifying Priority Environmental Public Health Indicators

EPHIs ranked High Priority by Consortium

- ☑ • Criteria air pollutants
- Air toxics
- Motor vehicle emissions
- Environmental tobacco smoke
- ☑ • Carbon monoxide poisoning
- ➡ • Indoor Air Hazards in schools
- ➡ • Childhood lead poisoning
- Pesticide use and child poisoning
- Illnesses with suspected or confirmed environmental contribution
- Contaminants in ambient water / attributable outbreaks of illness
- Contaminants in drinking water / attributable outbreaks of illness
- ☑ • Contaminants in shellfish and sport & commercial fish

Priority Environmental Public Health Indicators for Feasibility Assessments

- Ambient air ozone & rates of ED visits for acute asthma events
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Hair mercury levels and fish consumption among pregnant women

Environmental Public Health Tracking

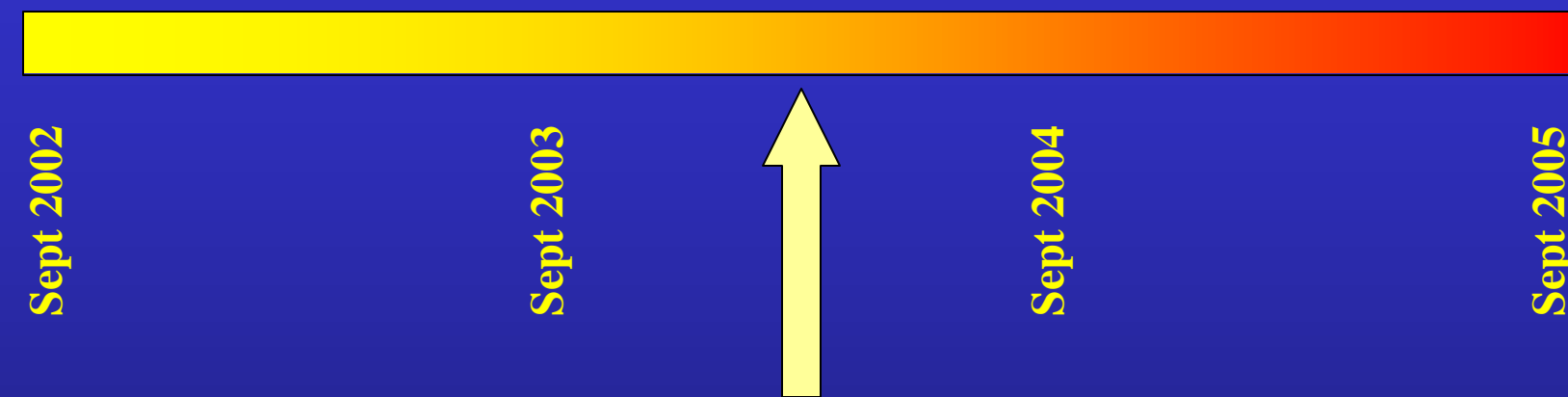
Environmental Public Health Indicators

Reasons for why these three...

- Likely to be part of the core national EPHT network
- Reflect different types of EPH Indicators
- Integrate well with ongoing activities and/or past activities
- All are measurable, trackable over time, have demonstrate links between environment and health, informative to public, and linked to public health objectives, ...
- All appear consistent with consortium priorities (?)

Environmental Public Health Tracking

Is there life after September 2005?



Strategy for Continued Funding

- Complete feasibility assessments on priority EPH Indicators, including pilot projects, by 2005
- Position EPHT as a core Bureau-wide resource for investigating the contribution of environment factors to chronic disease
- Pursue both a short-term strategy and a long-term strategy for program development – Direct more resources to short-term strategy

Environmental Public Health Tracking

Environmental Public Health Indicators

Feedback Needed!

- Do you agree with choice of priority EPHI's for feasibility analysis / pilot project work?
- Do you agree with our strategy?